U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Savannah River Site



Presentation to Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Waste Management Committee

DWPF Process Improvements & Tank 13 Modifications

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PURPOSE and AGENDA

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Purpose: to respond to the WMC request and to meet the FY 11 Workplan

Agenda:

- Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) Process Improvements
  - Bubblers
  - Dry Frit
  - Alternate Reductant
  - Strip Effluent Feed Tank to Slurry Mix Evaporator Tank
  - Water Separation from Decontamination Frit
- Canister Storage
- Plutonium (Pu) Disposition
- Tank 13 Modifications

ACRONYMS

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- Decon – Decontamination
- DWPF – Defense Waste Processing Facility
- MFT – Melter Feed Tank
- Pu - Plutonium
- SEFT – Strip Effluent Feed Tank
- SME – Slurry Mix Evaporator Tank
- SRAT – Sludge Receipt and Adjustment Tank
- SWPF – Salt Waste Processing Facility

DEFINITIONS

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- Frit – a silica based product (glass) used to vitrify high level waste
- Reductant – a chemical reducing agent
- Strip Effluent – the waste stream produced from the removal of cesium from sludge or salt waste
- Sludge – the by-product waste of chemical separations activities at the Savannah River Site
- Slurry – mixture of a liquid with a solid to allow the solution to be transferred between tanks

DWPF Process Improvements

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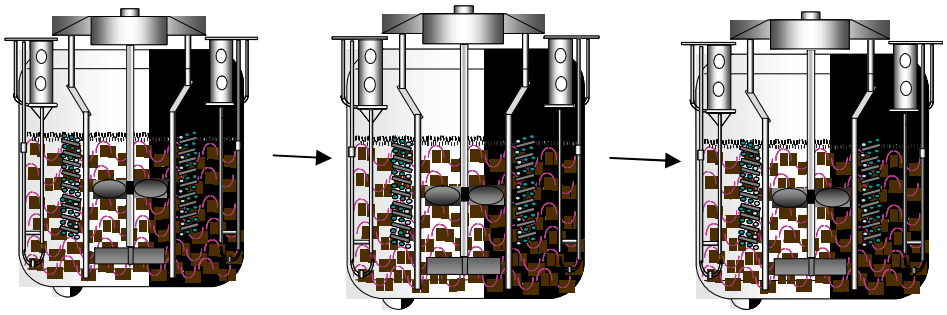
DWPF Chemical Process Cell

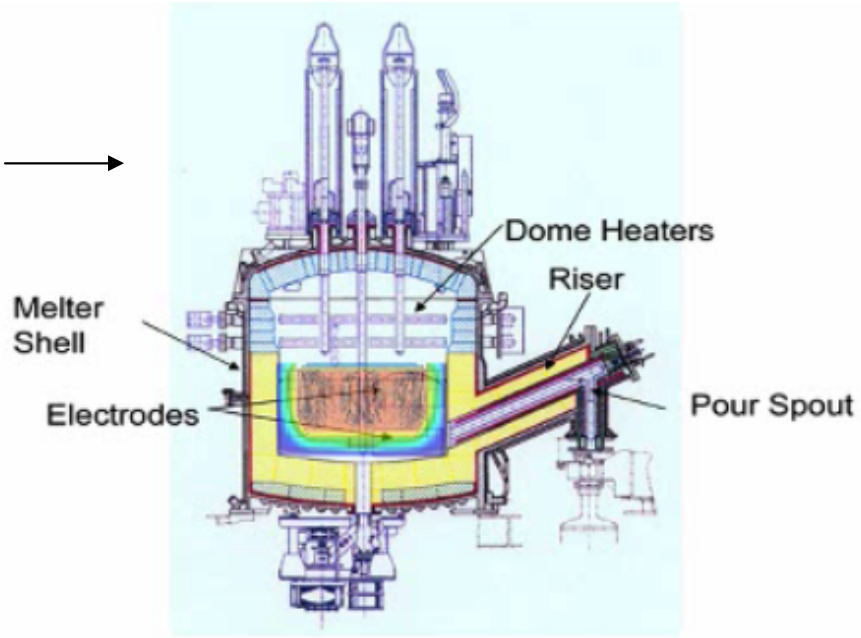


SRAT – Sludge Receipt And Adjustment Tank

SME – Slurry Mix Evaporator

MFT- Melter Feed Tank

DWPF Melt Cell



Joule Heated Melter

Melter Feed Prep

- Alternate reductant
- Dry process frit addition
- Water separation from decon frit
- Strip Effluent Tank options

Vitrification

- Melter Bubblers

DWPF Process Improvements

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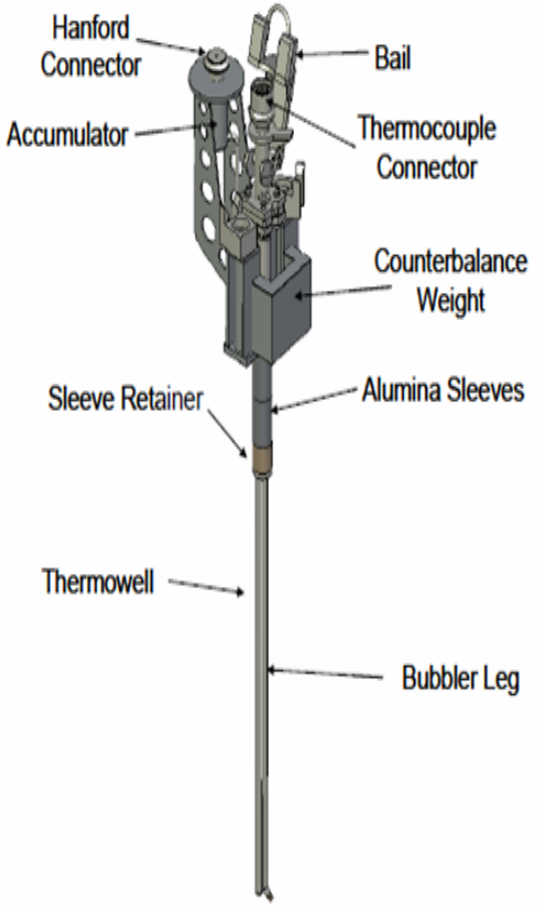
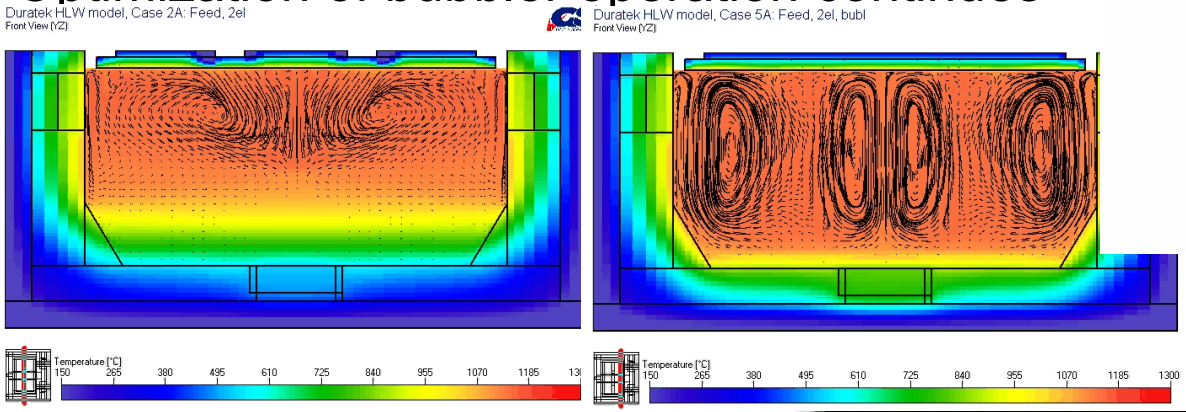
- Melter Bubblers
  - Four Bubblers installed in September 2010
  - Melt rate has increased from approximately 130 lb/hr to 200 lb/hr
  - Increased canister production from ~200 cans/year to 300+ cans/year
  - First set of bubblers replaced upon reaching design life of 6 months
  - Second set remains in service
  - Optimization of bubbler operation continues



Bubbler



DWPF Process Improvements

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- Dry Frit Addition to the Slurry Mix Evaporator Tank
  - Replace the current slurry-fed transfer design with a dry conveying system
  - Cycle time reduction of up to 7% due to less evaporation time
  - Contract in place with the selected dry frit conveying system vendor
  - Project under evaluation due to forecasted limited funding in FY12.

Dry Process Frit Addition

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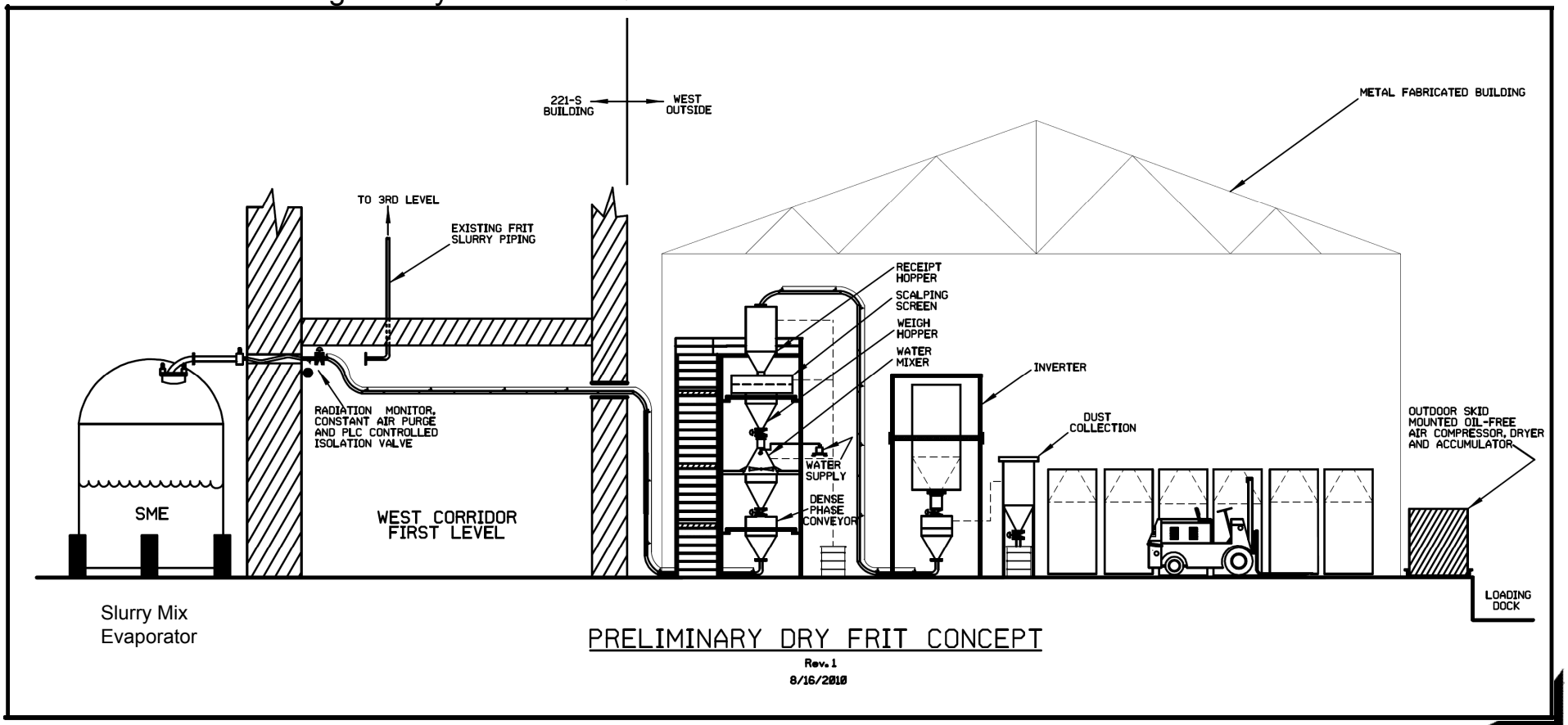
Inside the Defense Waste Processing Facility ← → Outside of the Defense Waste Processing Facility



DWPF Process Improvements

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- Alternate Reductant in the Sludge Receipt and Adjustment Tank (SRAT)
  - Formic acid (reductant) currently used in the SRAT - chemically change mercury (Hg) and manganese (Mn) – Hg is removed from system
  - Minimize the use of formic acid by an alternate reductant
    - expected to increase the evaporation rate
    - reduce processing time up to 20%
  - Multiple combinations of reductant evaluated
  - A glycolic acid selected for further process development
  - 18 – 24 months from deployment

DWPF Process Improvements

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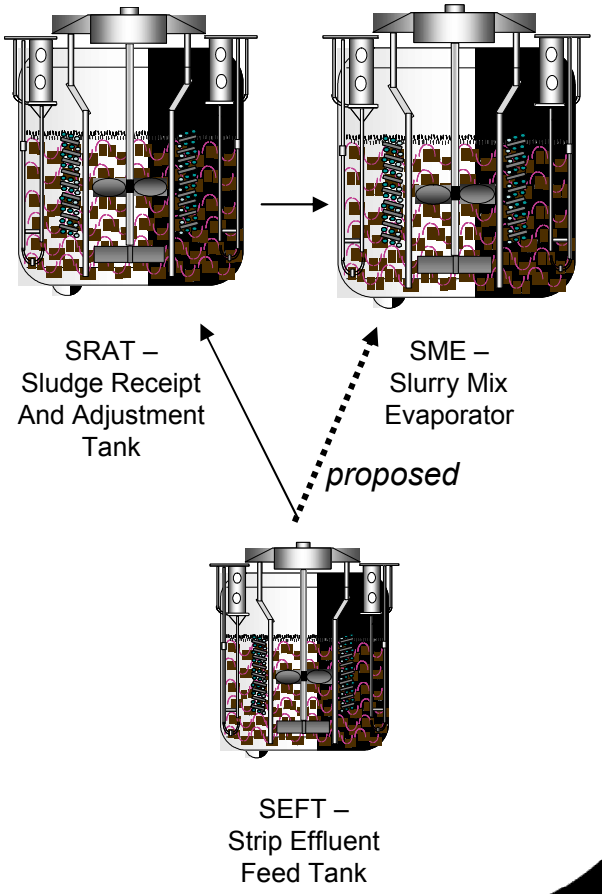
- Strip Effluent Feed Tank to Slurry Mix Evaporator Tank
  - Install the capability to transfer strip effluent to either the Sludge Receipt and Adjustment Tank and/or Slurry Mix Evaporator Tank
    - Strip Effluent comes from the cesium removal from sludge or salt waste – stored in the Strip Effluent Feed Tank
  - Provide flexibility to balance evaporation loads
  - Piping (jumpers) inside the process cell have been fabricated but not installed
  - Work outside the process cell in the connecting corridor continues
  - Ready by March 2012

DWPF Chemical Process Cell



DWPF Process Improvements

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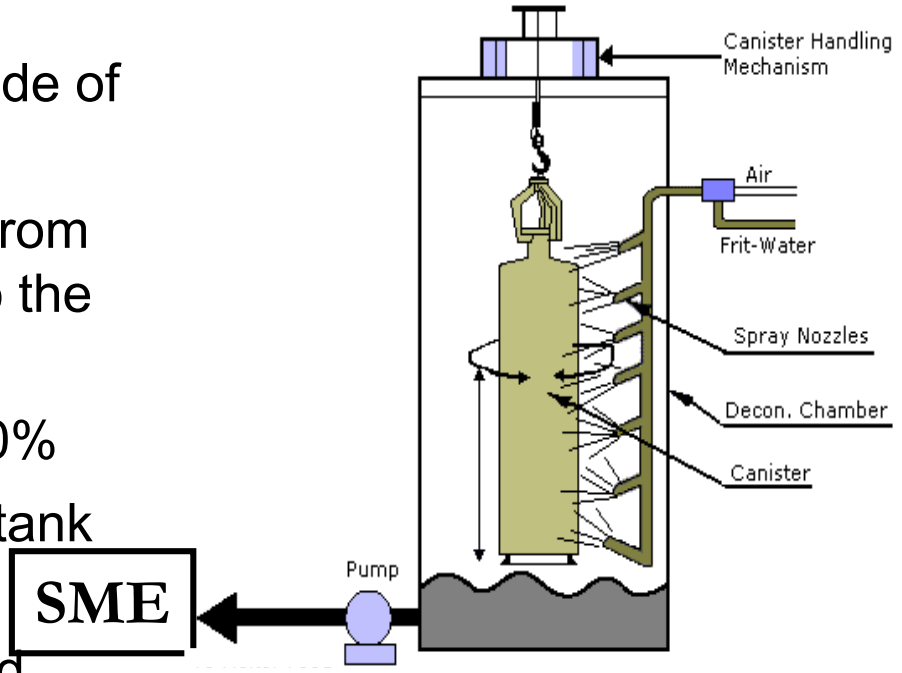
- Water Separation from Decontaminated Frit
  - Currently a frit slurry is used to decontaminate (wash) the outside of a waste canister
  - Improvement to remove water from the slurry before it goes back to the slurry mix evaporator tank
  - Cycle time reduction of up to 20%
  - Reduces water returned to the tank farms
  - Performed testing and assessed water separations technology
  - Hydro-cyclone design selected
  - Future development dependent on funding



Canister Storage-
Glass Waste Storage Buildings

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- GWSB #1 - 2,244 storage positions in use – 7 available
- GWSB #2 - 2,340 storage positions
  - Approx. 40% filled
  - Over 4 years storage remaining at 300 canisters/yr
- GWSB #3 - in planning stages
  - Same design as GWSB #2
  - Operational in FY16.

Plutonium (Pu) Disposition

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- Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement under development
  - Alternative to disposition 6 metric tons of Pu through the liquid waste system - Defense Waste Processing Facility – into glass
- Record of Decision will determine final disposition path - expected late summer 2012
- To support the alternative if chosen, the following activities have been performed:
  - Studies to determine feasibility:
    - Scoping calculations completed for increased Pu loading in glass
    - Criticality studies completed for one neutron absorber
    - Additional studies required if alternative chosen
  - Pu Disposition impacts will be evaluated in next revision of Liquid Waste System Plan

Tank 13 Upgrades – Background

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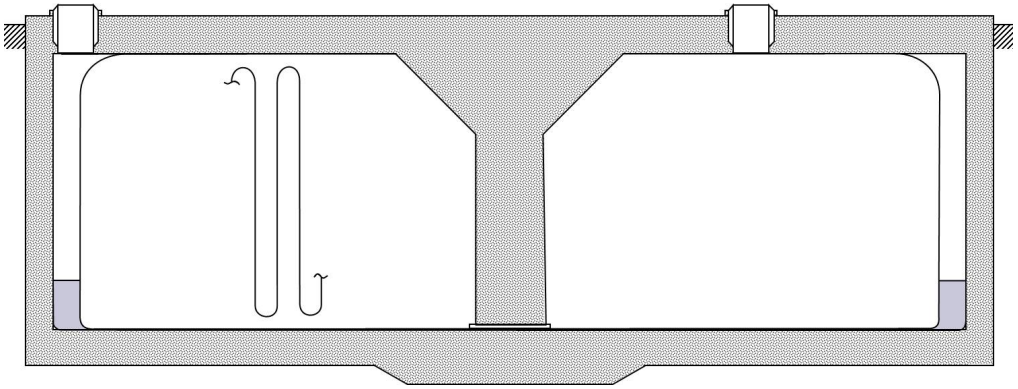
- Tank 13 is a Type II waste tank located in H Tank Farm
- Currently, Tank 13 contains 277K gallons of sludge
- Upgrades are required to:
  - Initially perform bulk waste removal for sludge transfers to support sludge batch 8
  - Utlimately provide transfer capability for tanks 14 and 15 to tank 51



Type II (1.03 Million gallon capacity)

Tank 13 Upgrades – Scope

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- Disassembling and removing existing equipment
- Riser probing to identify potential interferences in the tank
- Procuring and installing three submersible mixer pumps, a submersible transfer pump, electrical substation, and electrical equipment skid
- Tying the transfer pump into an existing transfer line
- Procuring and installing flow instruments, hydrogen level monitors and alarms, and purge and ventilation alarms

Tank 13 Upgrades – Highlights

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- Three submersible mixer pumps were procured and tested:

Installing the pump into the test stand

Testing at the TNX Facility

Tank 13 Upgrades – Highlights

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- Three submersible mixer pumps were installed into the tank:

Disassembling and removing existing equipment

Installing the pump into the tank

Tank 13 Upgrades – Highlights

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- **An electrical substation skid and an electrical equipment skid were fabricated and installed to provide power for the pumps and other tank top equipment:**

Electrical substation

Inside Electrical Equipment Skid

Installing the Electrical Equipment Skid on pad

Connecting the tank pumps to Electrical Equipment Skid

Tank 13 Upgrades – Highlights

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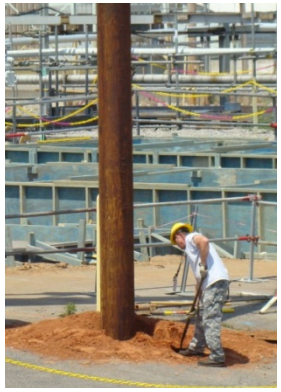
- Other infrastructure improvements:

Hydrogen analyzer

Purge exhaust stack

Infrastructure mods



Inlet HEPA filter housing

Transfer line excavation and installation

Tank 13 Upgrades – The Big Picture

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Electrical substation and equipment skids

Tank 13 Aerial View

www.em.doe.gov

Conclusion

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- Defense Waste Processing Improvements well underway
- Canister Storage is ongoing with a third building in planning
- Plutonium Disposition path through liquid waste system is still undetermined
- Tank 13 infrastructure modifications will be virtually complete by the end of September